

# THE BAPTIST Record

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## 'Clergyman of Century' remembered

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — As the story goes, songwriter William J. Reynolds wanted to pen a song in the early 1970s in honor of Mississippi native James L. Sullivan, then the president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) in Nashville, and who would eventually be named Mississippi Baptists' Clergyman of the Century.

Reynolds wrote Share His Love, which today is a popular song in many church hymnals, and told Sullivan about it. Sullivan, knowing that his last name now would appear below the song in hymnbooks nationwide, quipped, "That's the only way my name will get in the hymnal."

Sullivan's humor, kindness, wisdom, courage, leadership, and faith were remembered during a memorial service Dec. 30 at his church, First Church, Nashville. Sullivan, who served as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1953-1975, died in Nashville on Dec. 27 at the age of 94.

His faith was the memorial service's dominant theme. "Dr. James L. Sullivan made me want to be a better Christian," First Church Pastor Frank Lewis said. "In every conversation... he made me want to be a better Christian."

Born in Lawrence County and raised in Tylertown, James Lenox Sullivan served as pas-

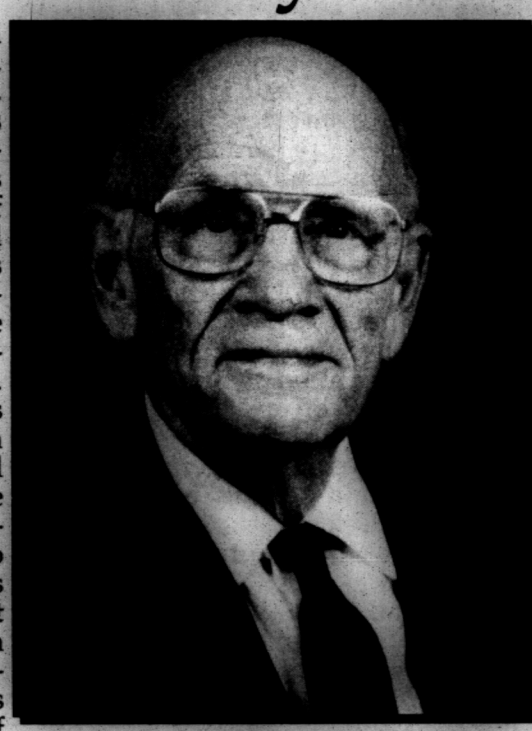
tor of churches in Ripley, Clinton, Brookhaven, Tennessee, and Texas but will be remembered by most for his service as president of the Sunday School Board. Sullivan was there during the tumultuous 1960s, when the nation was in a discussion over race relations.

Under Sullivan's leadership the cafeteria at the Sunday School Board became one of the first public dining facilities in Nashville to desegregate. "He was attacked from the left and from the right [on the issue of race relations]," said Sullivan's son, David Sullivan of Columbus.

Sullivan's son recounted his father's deep prayer life. "Our father taught us about prayer," David Sullivan of Columbus said, adding that "in the worst of times" his father's prayers were focused on "praise and thanksgiving."

Sullivan also loved the great hymns, his son recounted. During the service the congregation sang, O' for a Thousand Tongues to Sing. It was written by Charles Wesley, but "our dad could have easily written it," David Sullivan said. It was one of Sullivan's favorite hymns.

"Don't you know my father



Sullivan

wished for a thousand tongues to sing his great Redeemer's praise?" David Sullivan asked.

Sullivan was widely known as an authority on Southern Baptist polity and had been actively involved in denominational service since his first pastorate in 1932. He served one year as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, being elected in 1976. He also served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and as trustee of numerous Southern Baptist universities, seminaries, and hospitals. He is listed as one of the founders of

Baptist Hospital in Nashville, and he also served as vice president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Sullivan also taught at MC and Southern Seminary.

Messengers to the 1985 Mississippi Baptist Convention voted him Clergyman of the Century, and he received the Southern Baptist Convention's E.Y. Mullins' Denominational Service Award in 1973.

Sullivan was baptized at age 11, preached his first sermon at age 16, was licensed to preach at age 18, and ordained to the Gospel ministry at age 21 at Tylertown Church. A graduate of Tylertown High School, Sullivan's higher education included a bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton; a master of theology degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and doctor of divinity degrees from MC and Campbell College in Buie's Creek, N.C.

He was captain of the MC football team in 1931, and was inducted as a member of the Baptist-affiliated school's Sports Hall of Fame.

Sullivan was preceded in death by his wife, the former Velma Scott of Tylertown, and daughter Martha Lynn Porch of Nashville. In addition to son David, Sullivan is survived by a daughter, Mary Beth Taylor of Nashville; seven grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

### Miss CP hits mark

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in 2004 exceeded budget needs by \$194,047, or .63%, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. Mississippi Baptists gave a total \$31,049,018 to CP in 2004, another in a string of record giving years. The December total of \$2,607,587, which pushed the annual CP total over the top, was 7.07% less than the \$2,805,892 given last month, and 14.02% less than the \$3,032,981 given in the same period in 2003. The Mississippi CP fiscal year runs from January to December. The 2004 Mississippi CP budget of \$30,854,971, was approved by messengers to the 2003 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Messengers to the 2004 annual meeting set the 2005 Mississippi CP budget at \$31,314,491. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP also helps fund such programs as the Women's Winter Conference on January 21-22 at First Church, Grenada; the State Evangelism Conference on January 24-25 at Temple Church West Campus, Hattiesburg, and the Hispanic Pastors Retreat on February 11-12 at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville.

### SBC CP down for month

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Cooperative Program receipts in December of \$14,281,730.64 were 3.02% less than the previous month's total of \$14,727,082.50, but 5.13% above the amount given in the same period last year, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. Year-to-date contributions are up nearly 2.21% compared to the same time frame in 2003, Chapman said. As of Dec. 31, 2004, the year-to-date total of \$45,271,985.66 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$1,002,275.81 ahead of the \$45,269,709.85 received at the same point in 2003. Designated giving of \$10,376,456.44 for the same year-to-date period is 15.97%, or \$1,971,868.29, below gifts of \$12,348,324.73 received at this point last year. The \$4,125,884.19 in designated gifts received last month is \$122,841.16 below the \$4,248,725.35 of December 2003, a decrease of 2.89%. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$46,271,985.66 is 101.03% of the \$45,800,423.52 budgeted, or \$471,562.14 above budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. At the close of their last fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2003 to Sept. 30, 2004, Southern Baptists recorded a 3.64% increase in CP giving, for a record total of \$189,865,254.85. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Directions



Just for the Record

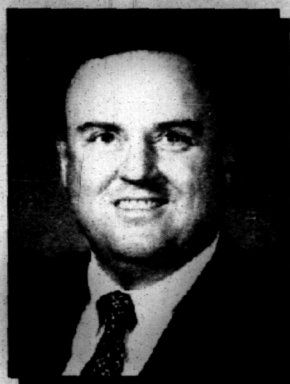
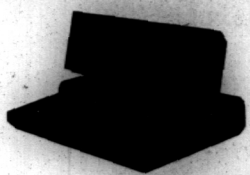


Sunday School Lessons





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# Loose lips really will sink this ship

**B**y now there's virtually no one in America who hasn't heard about the tsunami that swept through south Asia on the day after Christmas. The bone-chilling images of terrified people trying in vain to outrun the massive wall of water are stomach-churning.

The United States was one of the first countries to respond to the humanitarian crisis (politically-motivated news stories notwithstanding), and is providing an astronomical percentage of the manpower and treasure assisting the survivors (politically-motivated news stories and United Nations officials notwithstanding).

Southern Baptists are there. They won't be featured in the headlines or spotlighted on the nightly television news, but they are there. In areas where they had to keep their heads down even before the tsunami disaster, they are hard at work to coordinate the Southern Baptist response.

Teams of trained Southern Baptist disaster relief workers are gearing up for the long-term recovery effort, Mississippi Baptists included. They will be working closely with those Southern Baptist personnel on the scene to get into areas where no Christian has trod in generations. There are at least three ever-present dangers all of them

face that should keep us on our knees in prayer around the clock:

- Many of the countries in the path of the tsunami are overwhelmingly Muslim, and more than a few have been locked in civil war for many years with Islamic extremists. All relief workers, and especially those from religious organizations, could be targeted by terrorists.

- Career Southern Baptist personnel in the tsunami countries risk exposure, expulsion, or worse if their profiles get too elevated during this crisis.

- Southern Baptist volunteers could be denied admittance to any of the countries affected by the tsunami. Many borders have already been closed to outsiders, and



**SEARCH FOR THE MISSING** — Indonesians, attempting to protect their health with second-hand gloves and makeshift breathing filters, dig through a massive pile of rubble to recover one of the countless corpses in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, after the devastating tsunami roared ashore there. The site is near the Penayung River that overflowed after the tsunami and violently swept away anything in its way, including people, dwellings and cars. (BP photo)

scrutiny of incoming relief workers continues to increase with each passing week.

We need to understand that Christians are not welcome in many of these countries. As a television commentator put it last week, "Some of these governments would rather see their children starve before they accept a crumb of bread from the wrong groups." Those "wrong" groups include Christian- and Jewish-based organizations.

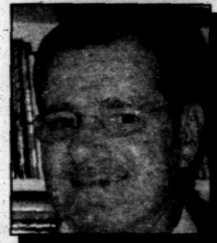
Many of us are old enough to understand the meaning of the saying, "Loose lips sink ships." It was used extensively in World War II, and it means that information from people who talked about which troops were shipping out and where they were going could result in the enemy acquiring the information and thus being able to sink a shipload of soldiers before they reached a faraway battlefield.

Loose lips can also sink our Southern Baptist tsunami relief effort. At a time when Christians are at risk all over the world, we must be very careful in what we say or write about the relief effort. For example, neither The Baptist Record nor the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board web site will identify the countries or specific areas into which volunteers will be traveling when doing so could jeopardize their safety or the success of their mission.

Church and association newsletters, bulletins, websites — especially web sites — and other publications should be very cautious in this regard, too.

The Baptist Record will keep Mississippi Baptists informed of the relief effort, but with an elevated awareness of what's at stake. It's the least all of us can do to help guard the safety and security of the many determined and dedicated workers and volunteers.

## GUEST OPINION:



### *It's a matter of conviction*

By Charles E. Davis Sr., director  
Pike Association, McComb

sonograms of each child. I saw the human life that was already taking shape. (There were no sonograms when my children were conceived.) I could see the features being formed then that would make them the beautiful children they are today. I realized just how special they were to me and how special they must be to the God who was making them.

I could see what the Psalmist meant when he said, "For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well (139:13-14 NIV)." I could not, nor do I, understand how anyone could terminate someone so precious for whatever reason.

I began my journey of conviction that all human life, from conception to death, is sacred and special to God. Isaiah 49:3 speaks of Isaiah being formed in the womb to be God's servant. Jeremiah proclaimed, "The word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations' (1:4-5 NIV)." Before conception God knew them and, before birth, He formed them and called them to be His servants. I wonder how many of the more than 43 million aborted human beings since 1973 never got to be God's servants? How could I have been so insensitive for so many years? How could anyone not see how much value God places on every life?

Let me suggest some things to help you in your journey of conviction:

- Pray for a greater understanding of the value God places on the sanctity of human life. Pray for others who struggle with the issue.

- Study God's Word to see what He says. Abide by His truths.

- Seek Godly counsel. Check with our Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for help. They can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: rwood@mbcb.org.

Our God is still a loving, saving, forgiving God. Even when we are wrong, He seeks a relationship with us. We can, and should, continue to seek legislation to protect human life. We should stand up with fervent energy for what is right — but we will do nothing until it is a matter of conviction on our part. Choose life!

*Davis and his wife Betty, president of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, are members of First Church, McComb.*



# Tsunami vivid in memories of survivors

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (BP and local reports) — Minutes after feeling the earthquake Dec. 26, Ibu Tetty was in her house in the small village of Desa Nusa, about 10 kilometers from the coast in Indonesia's Aceh province.

She was giving thanks that her home was still standing, "but then I saw the people running up the hill. 'Why are you running?' I asked them. 'They were screaming, 'Water! Water! Run!' There was no time to get anything from the house."

The frightened villagers climbed on top of homes at the top of the hill. "When the water came, it was rolling and rolling," Tetty recalls, spinning her hands frantically. "Oh, dear God! I was crying. People were screaming and crying, 'Forgive us, God! Have mercy on us, God!'"

The view from the ridge that saved Tetty's life — and the lives of her husband and six children — will never be the same. Framed by low mountains in the distance, the vista looking to the sea is one of complete desolation.

Similar scenes greet aid workers arriving in Banda Aceh, the devastated provincial capital. Once a city of more than 200,000, an accurate count of the dead there may never be known. In the wreckage of what was once a bustling port city, people walk through rubble in stunned silence.

Mary Jane Welch of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention reported January 10 that all Southern Baptist workers in the tsunami area have been accounted for.

Mixed into the debris are hundreds of bodies that may never be recovered. There are



**PLEA FOR HELP** — Nine days after the tsunami swept across Banda Aceh, Indonesia, a woman who has found her mother's lifeless body wedged in debris begs passersby to help recover the corpse. (BP photo).

simply not enough people to dig out the remains. "It's like a huge fist first smashed down hard on the whole area, and then a huge hand stirred it all up," said one aid worker, struggling to find words.

Throughout the city, huge buses, trucks, and boats lie mangled and tossed about like toys. Shattered fishing boats lie in obscure resting places — atop bridges, along streets nowhere near water.

Nearly two weeks have passed since the Dec. 26 earthquake shook this city on the northern tip of Sumatra. The testament of its force remains: toppled minarets once reaching proudly to the sky, buildings collapsed on their foundations, deep cracks opened in the earth. But it was the ocean off the once-beautiful Sumatran coastline that destroyed the city — and still strikes fear in those who lived through the tsunami.

Like many survivors, Mr. Yusmanto escaped death only because he works outside

Aceh. He doesn't understand why his house wasn't leveled in the tsunami. Still, having a frame of a house left doesn't make him lucky. Everyone else in his family is dead.

"Whatever they say the death toll is, in reality it is higher," he said. Sweeping an arm out to the rubble of his community, Yusmanto estimates as many as 30,000 died in the immediate area.

Intermittent stacks of corpses enclosed in body bags line the road near his home. According to Yusmanto, many bodies recovered are pulled out by family members but with entire families dead, "most bodies will stay here, because there is no one else to do it," he says.

All along the western coast of Aceh province, reports on the devastation continue to broaden the extent of the damage. Traveling by vehicle along the coast is impossible as dozens of bridges are gone.

Six hours south of Banda Aceh, the coastal town of Meulaboh — population 40,000 — has few survivors, early observers say.

"Between Meulaboh and Banda Aceh are many, many smaller coastal fishing villages and towns," says Antonio (not his real name), a Baptist worker assessing the needs in Aceh. "If

Banda Aceh and Meulaboh are that completely destroyed, there's no doubt everything in between is also gone."

According to Antonio, conservative estimates say half the population of the city of Banda Aceh have been killed. "After what we've seen, that really seems to be conservative," he says. "But it's not just here. It keeps going. It's everywhere. The devastation doesn't stop. I can't imagine how long it would be before anyone will feel good about settling back in some of these places. They will, but it will always be with the fear of more tsunamis."

As people around the world continue to be inundated with images of the destruction, it's time to shift focus, says Pat (not her real name), a Southern Baptist disaster relief worker in the area.



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**BAPTISTS**

**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

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"We need to get past the death toll and get focused on the living — because that's where our ministry is going to be," Pat says.

In Aceh, the area hit hardest by the tsunami, reconstruction will take years. As volunteers begin to arrive, Pat believes selfless acts of service will make the greatest impact.

"We need doctors and nurses and people with specific fields of expertise," she says, "but we need a lot more people who will do dirty work. It will be harder than you can imagine. There are so many needs — giving food and water to other volunteers; setting up water filtration systems; carrying sacks of rice; digging out debris and bagging badly decomposed corpses."

As one with established relationships with the people, Antonio says aid delivered with humility and cultural sensitivity will have major impact.

"We've got an opportunity to reshape the people's perception of Christianity. They've got us categorized in just one box. We can reshape that."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Woman's Missionary Union board members and guests gather at the organization's national headquarters in Birmingham for the dedication of the Alma Hunt Museum of Woman's Missionary Union. Hunt and Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry speak at the ceremonies.

### 20 years ago

Coordinators call for hundreds of Mississippi Baptist volunteers to work in the state's partnership with the three-nation area of Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina — known collectively as Rio de la Plata.

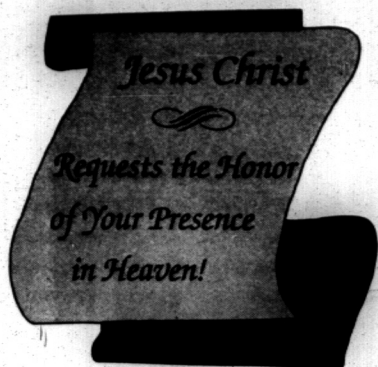
### 50 years ago

A. L. Goodrich, editor of The Baptist Record, urges churches to send their pastors to the Baptist World Alliance meeting in London. "No pastor will ever be the same after he takes part in this world-wide fellowship," Goodrich states in making his plea in the pages of the newsjournal.

## How to help tsunami victims

As emergency relief supplies begin to stack up at ports all around the area of Asia affected by the recent tsunami due to heavy donations and transportation problems, the most urgent need at present is monetary gifts to finance long-term efforts aimed at helping survivors rebuild their lives, say disaster relief officials on the scene. A special relief fund has been established at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and tax deductible donations are now being accepted. Checks should be made payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board with "tsunami relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, ATTN: Tsunami Relief, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. People who are donating to tsunami relief have been cautioned by charity experts to be sure they are donating to organizations that will utilize the money for the intended purpose; fully 100% of the funds donated to the MBCB special tsunami relief fund will be used in the Mississippi Baptist/Southern Baptist response to the tsunami disaster. Mississippi Baptists who would like to volunteer to assist tsunami relief survivors through the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit should contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at the above address. Telephone: (601) 292-3334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org. Special training and immunizations may be required. In coordination with the Southern Baptist tsunami relief effort, the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit is on standby at the present time awaiting specific assignments in the tsunami area.





#### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following  
prayer with God in  
your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name  
(John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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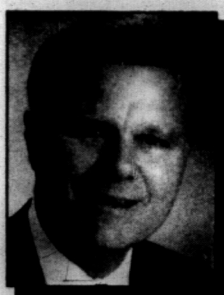
**CHURCH ORGANIST: DANIEL**  
Memorial Baptist Church is seeking an organist for the Sunday services in South Jackson. Send resumes to personnel committee chairman, Randy Green, Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, Miss. 39212.

**SEEKING YOUTH MINISTER AND** music minister for a small church in Caledonia, Miss. Please send resume to Caledonia Baptist Church, PO Box 39, Caledonia, MS 39740 or email to Randy Holmes at holmes1543@bellsouth.net. Church is seven years old and looking for individuals or individual to start programs from ground floor in our new building.

#### TO SEE AND BE SEEN

It was the day after Christmas, the last Sunday of the year, and we were getting ready to head out to church. It was one of those Sundays that was shaped by holiday festivities and Christmas visits. Probably most folks were like me and got up facing the day with a slight turkey and dressing hangover. Honestly, I was excited about going to church and two things were on my mind. I was looking forward to seeing and being seen. Now I am fully aware of the fact that we are supposed to go to church to worship God and that I intended to do, but I also wanted to see and to be seen. I can still hear preachers preaching about and against folks going to church to see and to be seen and telling people that if that is the only reason they come to church they might as well stay at home. I understand what the preachers were saying, but I think it is way overblown and certainly a narrow focus and limited insight. Usually what they were doing was berating those folks who would come to church to show off a new outfit, a new position, or themselves, and I find so few folks today that do that kind of thing that it is hardly worth mentioning. Surely there are people who come for their own agenda to make personal contacts and business advancements, but somehow it seems relevant that if a fellow will come and sit through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God for a period of time it might just be that the Lord can grab his heart. At least it gives God a shot at it.

Let's go back to that Sunday morning after Christmas. I did not have a new suit, shirt, or tie to show off, but I did want to see and to be seen. Let me explain. I got up



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

that Sunday morning thinking about some young people in our church who were going to be leaving within just a few days headed to Iraq, and I wanted to see them. Some of them I had known for years from the time they were just small, and some I had watched as they had matured into fine citizens, not only of this world but also in the Kingdom. If I could just get to see them, let them know that I loved them, and I would be praying for them it would mean a lot to me whether it would mean anything to them or not. Sure enough, as only the Lord could arrange, just as we got there, went in, and sat down, there sitting directly in front of me was a fine young man who had to leave college and would soon be on his way overseas. I had the opportunity to visit with him a few moments before church and then after church. I was blessed because I saw someone I wanted to see at church.

Specifically, I went to church with a deep desire in my heart to find and encourage someone else, but I must confess that I also wanted to be seen. No, I am not talking about parading around and appearing to be Somebody like some folks might think. In fact, I didn't know who would be there and didn't care except for a handful of folks that I wanted to see me.

Who? Well, my kids and my grandkids were going to be there, and when I can be, though I am not able to be at our church every Sunday, I want them to know that church, worship, and the Lord are important to me. All my life I went to church with my dad. In fact, he was pastor of the church. I listened to him preach three or more times a week every week. I remember some of the things he said, but there are many things that I do not remember at all. I do remember him being there, and I remember the sense of value he placed on worshipping God and meeting with God's people. He was there and it made a difference. It still makes a difference. I wanted to sit, stand, sing, and pray with my kids and grandkids gathered around me. The truth in the old poem has not changed and it will not change: "I had rather see a sermon than hear one any day. I would rather one walk with me than merely point the way."

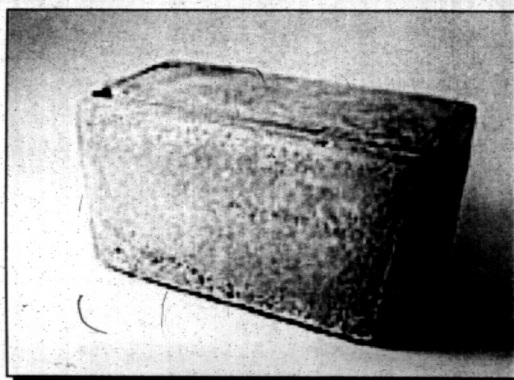
So on that Sunday I got up looking forward to going to church to see and to be seen and was blessed that both of them took place, but that is not all. What I found is what we so often find but sometimes lose sight of — the importance and the vitality found in its truth that God had a word for me. The music and the worship were magnificent and Christ honoring. The pastor spoke both from the book and from his heart and I was encouraged. I left church rejoicing in my heart and saying, "It was good to have been in the house of the Lord today."

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jffutral@mbcb.org.

## James Ossuary: real item or just another fake?

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — The so-called James Ossuary needs a careful, in-depth examination by a scientific team to determine, once and for all, whether it is an authentic relic in which the brother of Jesus was placed or merely a common first-century burial box with a phony inscription, a Southern Baptist seminary professor says.

The ossuary that made a worldwide splash in 2002 was back in the news Dec. 29 when police in Jerusalem filed criminal indictments against four antiquities collectors, accusing them of forging biblical artifacts, many so skillfully that they fooled experts. One of the artifacts was the James Ossuary.



James Ossuary

Steven Ortiz, assistant professor of archaeology at New Orleans Seminary, says such fake items are common but the James Ossuary needs further scientific analysis before a final verdict is pronounced.

"You have antiquities dealers who sell actual objects and forged objects," he said. "You have two or three archaeologists who have looked at it and said it is authentic and two who have said it is not. You have a geologist from the Royal Ontario Museum [in Toronto, Canada] who says it is authentic. So what you need to do is to get scientists in a room, and, like any project, you need a scientific report."

"What is sad about the James Ossuary is the way it hit the news was sensational. With all the hoopla there was not a sober analysis of the ossuary itself.

What we have now is people on both sides who have a lot of emotion and careers at stake."

The ossuary — a stone box that holds the bones of the dead and was used by Jews from around 20 B.C. until 70 A.D. — first made worldwide news in 2002 and was authenticated by some experts in the field.

The ossuary contains an Aramaic inscription on the side reading, "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus" — leading scholars to speculate it once contained the remains of the Apostle James. It was valued at one to two million dollars.

Among those recently indicted was dealer Oded Golan, suspected of forging the James Ossuary and other finds.

### 15-Passenger Van Safety is Big News these Days!

LifeWay Bus Sales has the solution—a 15-passenger mini-bus that meets Federal safety standards.



• 15 Passengers, No CDL  
• Center aisle  
• Low floor step  
• Rear door  
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Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer

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#### SERIOUS CONCERNS

- How much financial liability can your church bear?
- Insurance rates are going up!
- Legal Advisers are saying, "Remove the last row of seats!"
- Some states have already put mandatory replacement deadlines in action!
- Charitable Organizations and Child Transportation Businesses are at Risk!

### Baptist World Alliance

BIRMINGHAM, England • July 2005  
(escorted tours)

40 years of experience in Baptist Travel  
Quality tours with excellent accommodations, guides, sites,  
And inclusive features. All tours stay 4 nights at BWA.

Tour leaders welcome!

**July 19-August 01: BWA and France**  
**July 26-August 04: BWA and England**  
**July 24-August 06: BWA, Engl., Scotld, Wales**  
**July 24-August 07: BWA, Engl., Wales, Ireld.**

Operated by: Bryan Tours/MTS Travel

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Contact us for all your mission travel needs!

E-mail: Jackson@mtstravel.com

Phone: 1(800)647-5296



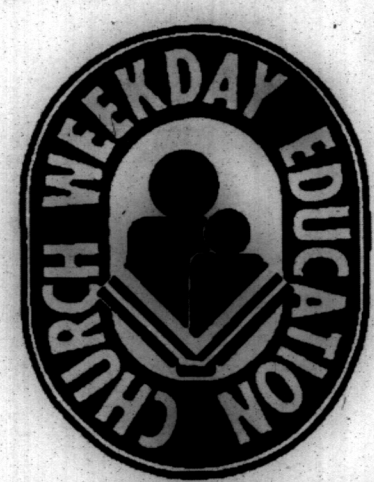
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 13, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



## Mississippi Baptist Christian Education Clinics

February 12, Highland BC  
Meridian

March 5, FBC  
Jackson

These staff development classes are accredited by the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Mississippi Private School Association.

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED and there is a \$15 charge to be paid, in advance, with the preregistration form. Classes will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1p.m. for a total of 5 hours of credit. At 7:30, the directors (or their designee) will check in the whole group. In order to allow 5 contact hours for the classes, light refreshments will be available between the 2nd and 3rd class periods. Classes will be offered in tracks for those who teach babies and toddlers; twos; threes; fours & fives; after school grades 1-6; and also for directors.

For more information call Discipleship and Family Ministry at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3284.

"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings becoming like Him in His death. (Philippians 3:10 NIV)

## In Christ's Steps

### 2005 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE *with choices*

#### MONDAY

1:30 p.m. In Christ's Steps-Holiness"  
3:00 "In Christ's Steps-Servant Leadership"  
(Monday Afternoon Sessions in the Fellowship Hall)  
Praise and Worship, Karen Fisk  
Testimonies  
Special Music  
Keynote Speaker  
Prayer Time and Fellowship  
5:00 Dinner break on your own  
6:30 Monday Evening Session  
(All together for the State Evangelism Conference in the Worship Center)

#### TUESDAY

9 a.m. "In Christ's Steps"  
Praise and Worship  
Testimony  
Special Music  
Keynote Speaker, Rhonda Kelley  
Prayer Time  
11:30 Lunch break on your own  
1:30 "Follow in Christ's Steps"  
Praise and Worship  
Prayer and Share Time  
Special Music  
Keynote Speaker  
Prayer Time

January 24-25  
Temple Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg



Rhonda Kelley  
Keynote Speaker



Karen Fisk  
Worship Leader

Rhonda Kelley is the wife of the president of New Orleans Baptist Seminary where she is also professor of women's ministry.

Karen Fisk is the "former" minister of music at Silverena B.C. and a member of "One Voice."

Testimonies by:  
Evelyn Williams, Factory  
Janet Rayford, Crestwood New Life  
Ceil Fox, FBC, Greenwood

The Women's Symposium  
Hosted by Temple Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg, MS





**THE CHRISTIAN  
PERFORMING ARTS  
FESTIVAL** offers some-  
thing for the entire  
church family:  
conferences to help your  
church staff be more  
creative in the worship  
services; to better equip  
youth ministers/leaders  
for youth ministry and  
mission opportunities; to  
examine great old and  
new approaches to  
recreation; and to  
explore ways to use  
media, puppetry,

clowning and drama.

These conferences are planned for both adults and students, and our hope is that you will consider being a part of this weekend in 2005.

If you have any questions  
about the festival,  
please contact  
Rene Edwards at  
1-800-748-1651 or E-mail her at  
redwards@mbcb.org.



# ACTS 1:8

## 2005 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY PREVIEWS with Nate Adams

• Main Street BC,  
Hattiesburg  
Jan. 17, 2005  
9 a.m.-noon

• FBC, Clinton  
Jan. 18, 2005  
9 a.m.-noon

• Central Hills  
Baptist Retreat  
Jan. 20, 2005  
9 a.m.-noon

• FBC, Oxford  
Jan. 19, 2005  
9 a.m.-noon



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

Preregistration requested  
Cost \$10 - includes registration for the preview,  
brunch and a copy of the study course book

Nate Adams  
vice president,  
Missions  
Mobilization,  
NAMB  
and author of  
this year's  
doctrine study  
book

For more info, contact the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry  
Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3284.

## "Taking Up the Towel as a Senior Adult"

### STATE SENIOR ADULT EVANGELISM RALLY

Monday, January 24  
Temple BC West Campus  
Hattiesburg  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Seminars from WMU,  
Sunday School,  
Discipleship & Family  
Ministry

Refreshments provided by  
Mississippi Baptist  
Foundation

Speaker: Jim Futral  
Music: Paid in Full

For more info, contact Ken  
601-544-1794

## STATE SENIOR ADULT RETREATS Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

To register, call 228-452-7261.  
Retreat I, May 10-13 (4 days)

Ferris Jordan

Retreat II, May 16-18

Joe Sherrer

Retreat III, May 19-21

Joe McKeever

Retreat IV, September 27-29

J. Garland McKee

## STATE SENIOR ADULT RALLY Thursday, August 25 FBC, Jackson

8:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Cost: \$1 payable at the door

Speaker: Phil Waldrop,  
Alabama

Music: Brad Becker and  
Family Band  
Arkabutla, Miss.

## 2005 VBS JumpStart

For All Pastors, VBS  
Directors and VBS Leaders



Psalm 25:4

Pack your bags and get ready to cruise "Route 254" with LifeWay's Ramblin' Road Trip!  
Which Way Do I Go? VBS. We'll cruise along "Route 254," better known as Psalm 25:4, to see  
natural wonders, big cities, theme parks and more as we discover how the choices we make  
daily affect our entire journey. By choosing God as our guide, we are sure to arrive at our  
ultimate destination - a relationship with Jesus!

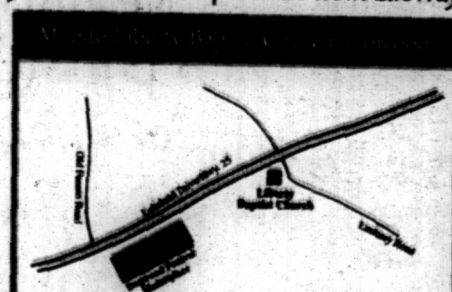
The VBS sampler and curriculum will be on display and available for purchase from LifeWay  
Christian Resources.

February 14, 2005 - 9-11 a.m.  
First Baptist Church, Long Beach  
506 Jeff Davis Avenue

February 15, 2005 - 9 a.m.-noon  
Liberty Baptist Church, Flowood  
5199 Lakeland Drive

February 15, 2005 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven  
7200 Swinnea Road

For info, contact the Sunday School Department  
601-292-3292 or 1-800-748-1651



On Display At Liberty BC:

- Children's Crafts
- Preschool Crafts
- Children's Snacks



# 2005 State Evangelism Conference



## MUSIC

Matt Rouse  
Paul Koonce &  
Temple Baptist  
Celebration  
Choir and  
Orchestra  
Ronnie Cottingham  
Bernie Parker  
Paid in Full

## FEATURING:

Dean Register  
David Uth  
Stan Buckley  
Ed Young  
Ken Lyle  
O.S. Hawkins  
Robert Smith

For more info,  
contact the Evangelism  
Department.  
1-800-748-1651  
601-292-3278  
E-mail: esmith@mbcb.org

# EXTRA MILE

## EXTRA:

- 1: more than is due, usual, or necessary
- 2: superior

## MILE:

- 1: a thousand paces
- 2: a relatively great distance

Do you look at others and think about going a thousand paces for them? Do you desire to do more than is due or necessary for the people you see every day?



July 21-23

For more info,  
contact  
Sunday School  
1-800-748-1651  
or 601-292-3292  
jellis@mbcb.org

Join us at Centri-Kid 2005 to learn how to go the EXTRA MILE for others.

Centri-Kid offers a quality Christian camp experience for children who have completed grades 3-6, combining quality worship with age-appropriate activities designed - from start to finish - to reach children with the message of Jesus Christ.

Cost: \$137 per person

Small-group Bible study follows the morning celebration, helping each child focus on the theme for the day and life application of God's Word. From there, campers choose from a variety of creative and exciting courses - known as "tracks" - that allow them opportunity to develop their talents and interests.

## Centri-Kid Registration Form - Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Name of contact person \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Church address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# Girl's \_\_\_\_\_ # Boys \_\_\_\_\_ # Female adults \_\_\_\_\_ # Male adults \_\_\_\_\_ Total # \_\_\_\_\_  
Return this form and \$50 registration for each person to: Frank Simmons,  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299  
Phone: (228)452-7261 or Fax: (228)452-7263.

PLEASE POSTMARK FEB. 1, 2005, OR AFTER.

# FAMILIES!!!

## FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCES

**Monday, February 7**  
Monticello Baptist Church  
7-9 p.m. (Lawrence Association)  
For information: 601-587-2114  
**Saturday, February 26**  
Antioch Baptist Church, Louin  
3-8:30 p.m.  
(Jasper Association)  
For information: 601-739-3477

## FAMILY WEEK

**Monday, July 4-7**  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
Special Guests: Brad Brecker Family Band  
Judy Marby-Vaughn, Ventriloquist  
Conferences  
Preschool/Children Teamkids  
Teenagers: Mini Centrifuge  
Adult Conferences: Single Parenting  
College Conference  
Couples: Brad & Pam Becker, Shepherd's Rest,  
"Servanthood Evangelism For The Family"  
Register through Gulfshore: 228-452-7261



# Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

January 14-27, 2005

*"If you are tired of religious fads and band-aid solutions, let Seeking Him draw you near to the God who abundantly supplies grace on every level of our lives."*  
*Jim Cymbala — The Brooklyn Tabernacle*

For: (1) Sanctity of Human Life (CAC); (2) A missionary associate completing his first term of service, writes: "The tennis courts are where I can find many unsaved people in our southern Brazil city. Pray with us that God will bring His harvest in His time."

For: (1) Baptist Men's Day (MM); (2) Pray for the workers and the Wolof believers in Senegal and The Gambia, asking that Christ would be Lord of every part of their lives as the Good News is proclaimed and discussed in several towns and villages among them each week.

For: (1) Baptist Doctrine Study, Hattiesburg, 9 a.m. - noon (D&FM); (2) At least 750,000 deaf persons are scattered among the peoples of the Caribbean and Middle America. Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send workers to reach the deaf.

For: (1) State Senior Adult Evangelism Rally (D&FM); (2) Bi-vocational Ministers' Wives Supper (P/LD); (3) State Evangelists Conference, including Women's Track, Hattiesburg (Evan & WMU).

For: (1) Baptist Doctrine Study (D&FM); (2) Continue in prayer for families and victims of last August's supermarket fire in Paraguay, especially those continuing to deal with the pain and trauma of missing members and for patients recovering from severe burns.

Over half of the unengaged peoples of Namibia and South Africa who hear the gospel accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Disciples are needed as teachers. Pray for the unengaged peoples: Herero, Nama-Damara, Mbalantu, Northern Cape Coloured and Namibian Coloured.

Team Slovakia is currently partnering with other groups to try and start a coffeehouse ministry in downtown Bratislava. They ask: "Pray for us to understand how to best develop and utilize this ministry. Also, pray for others to join us in this endeavor."

Michael R. Procter, Alaska Baptist Convention, requests prayer for: (1) a regional church starter strategist for the NW Arctic Association; (2) Mark and Jacques Gillespie as they plant a new church in Anchorage; (3) for 13 congregations seeking pastors.

For: (1) Baptist Doctrine Study, Kosciusko (D&FM); (2) 2006 Budget Planning Meeting (APSA); (3) Jaime Velasco, Jackson, Tenn. works at Poplar Heights Baptist Church. Pray for the Hispanic ministry, especially for the new believers and their discipleship training.

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festivals: Columbus, Clinton, McComb, Hattiesburg (CM); (2) Scott Davis, Cassopolis, Mich., works with the Elkhart Community Baptist Church plant in multi-housing venues. They need a new location. Please pray for one.

For: (1) Deacon Emphasis Week, 9th-15th (P/LD); (2) Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra Retreat, Madison (CM); (3) Please pray today for Governor Charles Wesley Turnbull of the Virgin Islands (Caribbean, east of Puerto Rico).

For: (1) 2005 Women's Winter Conference (WMU); (2) A worker among Egyptian University students reports, "We have the opportunity to teach English here and are praying for 40 students. Pray for relationships which result in sharing the Truth."

Perry Polnaszek is a church planting catalyst with the Minnesota/Wisconsin Convention. Pray as churches are being planted in 60 cities between the two states. Pray for medical missions, for church reproduction, and for local leaders.

Julie Shockey, Bakersfield, Calif. is the director of church and community ministries for the Kern and Sequoia Associations. Pray that the many who came to Christ through the Franklin Graham festival will join churches and mature in their faith.



## SERVING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



January 28-29

### First Baptist Church Madison

Events will include a wild game supper on Friday night and breakout sessions on Saturday. The sessions will include information geared toward men. Jim Futral and Danny Singleton will be our featured speakers and music will be provided by Pure Gospel. Cost for the conference will be \$10. Lodging can be arranged in local motels.

Please call Men's Ministry  
 601-292-3334 locally or  
 1-800-748-1651, ext. 334  
 for more information.  
 Registration deadline: Jan. 24

*Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder.*  
 Zephaniah 3:9

Featuring:

**Sonny Adkins**

Director, Evangelism, MBCB

**Mickey Caison**

Manager of Adult Mobilization, NAMB

**Jim Futral**

Executive Director, MBCB

**Jim Phillips**

Pastor & Professional Bass Fisherman

**Danny Singleton**

Minister of Pastoral Care & Men's Ministry, FBC, Woodstock, Ga.

**Sid Woodruff**

Men's Ministry Specialist, LifeWay

Encourage a MK with a birthday card!

**3-1-01: Miss Laura J. Wingo**

Parents: Floyd and Sylvia  
 General Evangelism  
 Western South America

**3-29-88: Mr. Jason R. Brown**

Parents: John and Claudia  
 General Evangelism  
 Southern Africa

**3-6-95: Miss Erin T. DeMars**

Parents: Guy and Cindy  
 Community Development  
 West Africa

**3-31-93: Miss Grace M. Holyfield**

Parents: Michael and Patricia  
 Church Planting  
 Central & Eastern Europe

**3-7-92: Mr. Nathanael C. Packard**

Parents: Michael and Sabrina  
 Church Planting, West Africa

**3-13-95: Miss Mollie S. Foster**

Parents: Michael and Miranda  
 Strategy  
 Middle America

**3-15-97: Miss Abigail R. Hewitt**

Parents: Earl and Ramona  
 Medicine, West Africa

**3-17-03: Miss Emma G. Epps**

Parents: Aaron and Tiffany  
 General Evangelism  
 Eastern South America

**3-24-89: Miss Robyn L. Kyzar**

Parents: Russell and Melinda  
 Strategy, Central & Eastern Europe

#### PLEASE NOTE

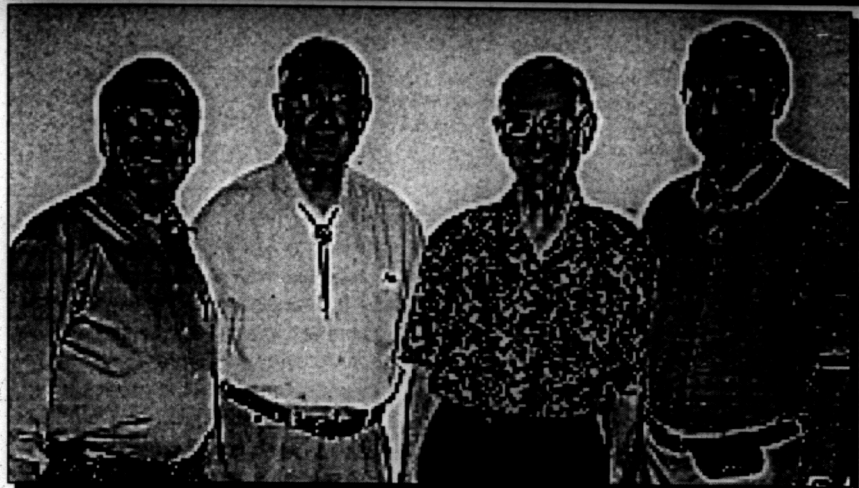
Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:  
 Child's name and parent's name  
 MBCB Stewardship Dept., PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

# HOUSE TOPS



# JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Calvary Church Revival Team, Canton**

Calvary Church, Canton recently held revival services. The evangelism team was made up of Cliff Shipp, evangelist; Tom Rayburn, Jimmy McCaleb, music; and Lewis Jones.

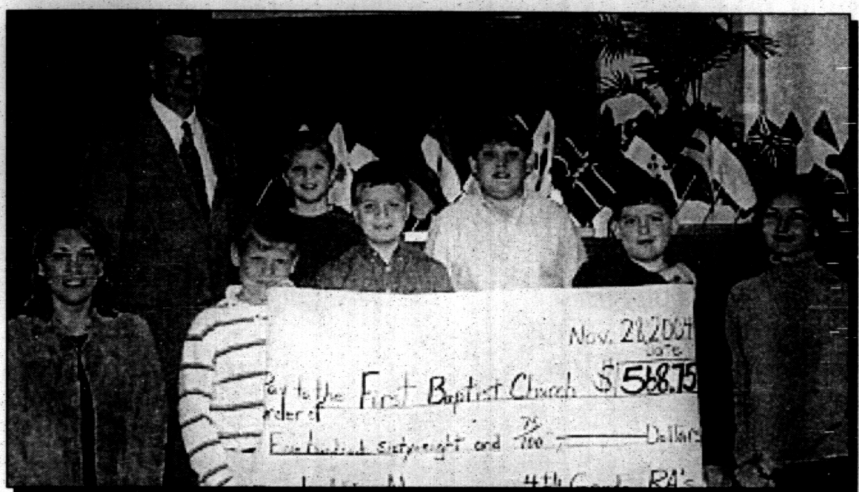


**Rienzi Church VBS, Alcorn Association**

**Monument Drive Church, Tupelo**, recently held a baby dedication service. Those participating were (from left) Jacob, Kaye and Andrew Long; Austin Owen, (second row) Mark Long, Sarah Long, and Kevan Owen. Tommy Tackett is pastor.



**Monument Drive Baby Dedication, Tupelo**



**RAs of First Church, Kosciusko**

**RAs of First Church, Kosciusko** recently raised \$568.75 for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Pictured presenting a check are (from left): Pam Chadick, Barry Corbett, Nicholas Frank, Peyton Overstreet, Trevor Moore, Alex Chadick, and Melanie Myrick.



**State Line Church Fellowship Hall Dedication, State Line**

Four generations participated in **VBS at Rienzi Church, Alcorn Association**, in June of 2004. Pictured are, Beth Curlee, Dylan Collins, Stacy Bullard, Bryce Bullard, front row; and Holley Jackson, Peyton Jackson, and Sandi Benjamin, back row.

The men of **Flowood Church, Flowood**, recently participated in a mission trip to First Church East Caronodole, IL where they did renovations to the church. This is the third year the church has taken part in this project. Pictured participating in the trip were from left (row 1) Ray Hall, Ricky Gray, Carlos Langford, Earl Smith, (row 2) Donnie Thomas, Bill Dunigan, Myron Sistrunk, Max Mitchell, Jerry Turner, Bobby Moore, Lester Fairbanks, (row 3) Scott Little, and Burt Mott. Ricky Gray is pastor.



**Flowood Church Men's Mission Group, Flowood**



**Conehatta Church Perfect Attendance Recipients, Conehatta**

**Conehatta Church**, Conehatta recently recognized eight people for perfect attendance. Pictured are Jacob Moore, Charles Morrow, Brian Moore, Juddie Hedrick, Amanda Horn, Martha Moore, Betty Stanford, and Marie Alexander.

**Fellowship Church, State Line**, recently held a dedication service for their new fel-

lowship hall. Pictured are James Dunnam; John Henry, AMD George-Greene Counties: Roger Gilbert, pastor; David Dearman, deacon chairman; and Guyton Clark, building committee chairman.

**Raymond Road Church, Jackson**, will present Mayberry Mania Jan. 21 and 22, 6 p.m. Tickets for the dinner and performance are available at the church by calling (601) 372-6154.

Community singing, **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch**, January 15, 6 p.m. Featured musicians are The Solid Rock 4. Call (662) 895-2661 for information.

**First Church, Brandon**, will hold registration for Kids Kamp (grades 1-4), GA/RA Camp (grades 3-6), and Crosspoint (grades 5-6) Jan. 26, 7 p.m., at the church's east campus (309 South College St.) Call Kim at (601) 825-8003 for information.

**James E. Messer Ministries, Inc.**  
**Evangelism Bible Conferences**  
 Check website or call JEM office for other 2005 conference locations and dates.  
 Sunday 1/23/05 thru Wednesday 1/26/05  
**WADE BAPTIST CHURCH • BILL BARTON, PASTOR**  
 20623 H 63 • M P MS 39562 • 228-588-3356

— **CONFERENCE SPEAKERS** —  
 Sun 1/23 — **John Sullivan** - Executive Director, FL Baptist Convention  
 Mon 1/24 — **Junior Hill** - Evangelist, Hartselle, AL  
 Tues 1/25 — **Step Martin** - Evangelist, Shreveport, LA  
 Wed 1/26 — **Ted Traylor** - Pastor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, FL

— **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SERVICES** —  
**John Yates** - Ventriloquist & Musician, Enterprise, AL

— **SPECIAL MUSIC** —  
**Phil Willis** - Music Evangelist, Baton Rouge, LA  
**John Yates • Sons of the Father • Endless Praise**  
 Mon thru Wed 12:00 Noon • Free Lunch • Speaker: Evangelist James Messer  
 All services broadcast live on WOSM 103.1 FM

Call Brother James now to schedule the 2005 dates you want  
 James E Messer Ministries Inc. • P.O. Box 1325 • Theodore, AL 36590  
 251-653-6652 • 800-653-6652  
 http://jamesmessenger.com • Email: jemrebs@aol.com



The Women's Enrichment Ministry of First Baptist Church Jackson proudly presents  
**A Jewel In His Crown**  
 featuring  
**Priscilla Evans Shirer**  
 Author of *A Jewel In His Crown* and *And We Are Changed: Encounters with a Transforming God*  
 Daughter of Dr. Tony Evans  
 and  
 A First Baptist Jackson Praise Team

February 4-5, 2005  
 Friday, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. & Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 First Baptist Church  
 Jackson, Mississippi

Early Bird Registration - \$25/person by January 15, 2005  
 Registration - \$30/person  
 (Prices includes Brunch on Saturday & materials)

To Register contact Mary Byrd  
 at 601-714-6926 or  
 wem@fbcj.org  
 For more information log on to  
 www.fbcj.org



**www.mbc.org**



## Conferences & Revivals

**Wade Church, Moss Point:** Wade Baptist Evangelism Conference, Jan. 23-26. Sunday, 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m. Speakers include John Sullivan, Executive Director, Florida Baptist Convention; Junior Hill; Stepp Martin; and Ted Traylor. John Yates, ventriloquist and musician, children's program. For information, call (228) 588-3356.

**Lincoln Road Church, Hattiesburg:** Revival Jan. 27-30. Nightly, 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. Don Stewart, evangelist; Justin Garcia and BSU team, music. For information, call (601) 266-4563, (601) 268-0743, or (601) 818-1834.

### MS POSITIONS

**SYLVARENA BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full-time pianist. Please send resume to Sylvarena Baptist Church, 28587 Hwy 18 East, Raleigh, MS 39153.

**PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH,** Hernando, Miss., is seeking a spiritually mature, aggressive, motivated, outgoing team member to lead the Lord's church in its Educational Ministry. Parkway is a growing church with unlimited potential. Please pray about this, and if the Lord is leading you, contact personnel committee at: 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. Fax is (662) 429-6076, or email [bailey\\_pbc@yahoo.com](mailto:bailey_pbc@yahoo.com).



Mr. & Mrs. W.M. Daves

**Mt. Pleasant Church, West,** dedicated a new church steeple in honor of pastor W. M. Daves Nov. 14. Shown are Daves and his wife.

**Bassfield Church, Bassfield,** celebrated its 100th anniversary October 3 with over 300 in attendance. Randy Gardner, pastor, Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, brought the message and John Green, Hunters Glenn Church, Plano, Tex., led the music. Ken Roberts, pastor.

**Poplar Springs Church, Hazlehurst,** will host ventriloquist John Yates, Enterprise, Ala., Jan. 16, 11 a.m. Call pastor Hubert Greer, (601) 643-2002 for information.

A BSU student team from William Carey College and Jones County Junior College



BSU Mission Team from WCC and JCJC

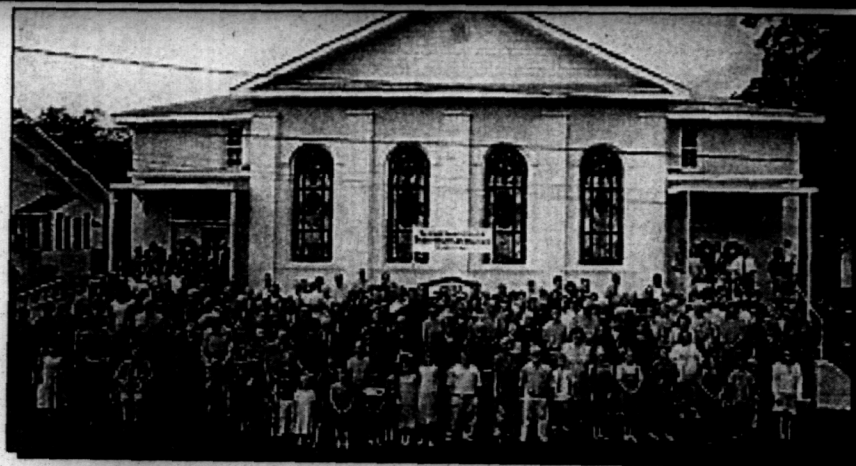
went to Asia Dec. 17-21 to work alongside Southern Baptist Missionaries. Shown, from left, are Chancey Nicks, Ruth Vickers, Noel Shaffer, Alison Toney, and Carlena Speed.

**Goodwater Church, Magee,** is sending a five-member mission team to help in relief efforts in the aftermath of the tsunami. The team consists of Brent D. Parker, pastor, Keith Moore, Donna Swarts, Ed Meadows, and Candace Fallor.

**First Church, Vicksburg,** gave \$47,530.81 to the Lottie



Rose Ogletree



100th Anniversary of Bassfield Church, Bassfield

Moon Christmas Offering, surpassing their goal of \$40,000. Sharon Virden, WMU director; Memorie Dickson, Women's Ministry Coordinator; Matt Buckles, pastor.

**Donald I. Pouns,** Crystal Springs, is available for pulpit supply, revivals, conferences, or other ministry needs. He has pastored churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. Phone (601) 892-9814 or (601) 506-0033.

**Unity Church, Moselle,** recently ordained Thomas Walters as deacon. Shown, from left, are Bo Walters, Walters, Daphne Walters, Christian Baylis, and Valton Douglas, pastor.

**Bethesda Church, Terry,** will honor Rose Ogletree January 16, 10:45 a.m., for 40 years as pianist and other leadership roles. A covered dish luncheon and reception will follow the service.



Bo, Thomas, & Daphne Walters, Christian Baylis, & Valton Douglas, pastor

Join Other Baptists Departing June 25, 2005

## NORTHEAST INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Protect Human Life

Exodus 1: 8-21; Jeremiah 19:1-15; 33:1-26; Romans 8:1-11

By Frances C. Graham

When a new king (or Pharaoh) came into reign about 1550 B.C., he had no knowledge of Joseph nor his impact upon Egypt. (Exodus 1:8) Instead all the new king was conscious of was the strange increase of Israel (Hebrew) in Egypt. Israel was fruitful, multiplying and increasing abundantly.

The state of Egypt wanted to suppress the Hebrew in every-way possible. The Pharaoh was intent on controlling the growth of the Hebrew not only because of the greatly increased numbers but also because he along with many in the country feared that the Hebrews, dwelling in Goshen, on the northeast border of the land, might join any invaders who might attack Egypt. (Exodus 1:9-10)

Because of the concern, the

Pharaoh called for the most inhumane method of suppressing the Hebrew, that of killing their children. He issued a command to the Hebrew midwives to murder any boy children as soon as they were delivered. He thought it was not necessary to kill the girl children because they would probably grow up to marry Egyptian men and the Hebrew would decline by attrition.

The midwives understood the king's orders, but they refused to follow it because they feared God more than they feared the king. (Exodus 1:15) The fear of the Lord in the Bible often refers to reverence, worship, or awe in the presence of God. Proverbs 9:10 states "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of worship."

The Ten Commandments, including "You shall not commit



Graham

murder" was not yet given to the people through Moses, but they knew that God told Noah in Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed." In Jeremiah 19:3-6, the Israelites had forsaken the Lord and had incorporated the worship of foreign gods and idolatry. They brought many innovations into their idol worship and by doing so they became desensitized in their moral nature and shed the blood of innocent people. They undertook the most debased forms of idolatry by involving children in their sacrifice. In the later part of verse 5, the Lord indicates that the sacrifice of such never even entered His mind. It was totally against His will. He was so taken back by the activities that He stated the valley where they resided would become known as the Valley of Slaughter. (verse 6)

As we read of these two events, we are wrought with anguish that

the people could become so desensitized that they actually accepted the practices of killing children. Let us stop for just a moment and evaluate what we accept in our lives today.

Many people fail to value human life as well. Think about some of the movies, television shows and music that glamorize various forms of violence including killing. Our society has legalized abortions making them available often on demand. Late term abortions are often utilized. We may not practice genocide as in Pharaoh's kingdom, but we do accept many avenues that truly lower the value of human life. We have had doctor assisted suicides and reports insinuating that some lives based on age or mental capacity are not valued as much as others.

In a truly God fearing society, there is no room for such discussions nor actions. We, as a nation, have become or are becoming desensitized to the value of human life. We are much too accepting of what others think and not willing to stand up for what we believe.

We as Christians are to stand up and oppose the assault on human life. We are to present ourselves in love as we speak the truth that the taking of human life is wrong. It will not be a popular stand in all cases but neither were the prophets popular as they declared God's Word in the Old Testament.

Often, we have sinned by omission when we have failed to speak out against the atrocities involving human life. We must repent just as the individuals who have committed such sins against human life. We are to call on the Lord and He will answer us, and show us great and mighty things." (Jeremiah 33:3) We, both those who commit sins by omission as well as commission, can be free of indwelling sin if we are willing to confess our sins and walk in the way of the Spirit. The Lord is waiting for us to request His forgiveness and He will then fill us with His Spirit. (Romans 8:1,11)

Praise Be To God!

Graham is a member of Adaton Church, Starkville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### What About Helpless People?

Luke 4:17-21; 6:18-21; 9:46-48; 18:15-17

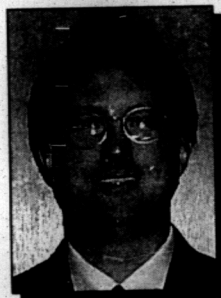
By Neil Gant

We live in a world that devalues human life. Recently, a great tsunami hit islands in Indonesia. What a horrible tragedy! At last count well over 150,000 people are dead. Billions of dollars will go to assist those left in the aftermath of this disaster. We pray and hurt for the survivors and hope with them that family members thought to be lost will be found. I find it interesting that many of the same people who are greatly disturbed by the horrible loss of life will not blink an eye at the murder of the unborn, euthanasia, or physician-assisted suicide. In the view of those who think such acts are acceptable the idea of the quality of life is most important. Is that the real issue? I think not. We need to

look at life as a gift from God. In the thirty some odd years since the decision to make abortion legal, millions of the unborn have died in this country. Even though this is the case, many remain untouched and undisturbed by the horrible shedding of innocent blood. The Lord Jesus Christ cared for those who were in helpless situations. He touched the blind, lame, deaf, dumb, and diseased. He still wants us to protect the helpless. He wants us to be His hands and minister to the helpless in this world. How can we do that?

SHOW CONCERN, LUKE 4:17-21

The Lord took the scroll in the synagogue in Nazareth and read from the prophet Isaiah.



Gant

As He did so He proclaimed to them without any hesitation that He was the Messiah. He clearly indicated that His purpose was to help the helpless. While it is obvious that the text refers to those in spiritual helplessness, we can certainly apply it to those in other helpless situations. In fact, if we are to accomplish His work we need to be filled with the Spirit and we need to reach out to those who are physically poor and downtrodden and blind. In so doing we can then have the great opportunity to touch them with the Gospel. We cannot shun those in society we deem as unacceptable and hope to have any impact on them with the message of salvation.

PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, LUKE 6:18-21

How often do we say something like, "Anytime you need anything just let me know." How often do we not follow up

on our promises. Words can be very empty when not completed by actions. The Lord Jesus healed the diseased and demon possessed. He not only spoke words of comfort, but also acted with compassion. As He taught attendant to His actions He spoke of the poor, the hungry, and the weeping. His great concern for the poor and outcasts is a theme of the Gospel of Luke. In this case He is most likely referring to those with spiritual needs. However, that does not mean we should ignore the obvious. Churches and believers should seek those they can help. If someone is poor, a church or a believer could provide a job or some money. If someone is hungry a church or a believer could provide some groceries or direct them to a local food pantry. If someone is weeping a church or a believer could put an arm of comfort and love around them and be an encouragement to them. We should love not in word only but in deed and in truth.

MINISTER TO CHILDREN, LUKE 9:46-48, 18:15-17

The Lord Jesus cared for those who were considered unimportant. He noted that children exemplify the kind of heart attitudes needed for entrance into the kingdom. The attitudes of humility and trust are essential for entrance into the kingdom. His disciples did not want the Lord to be bothered with children. He rebuked them and thereby noted His love for and concern for children. Our society wants to help the children who have been born and are facing difficult life situations due to health or socioeconomic status and yet will not protect the unborn from the horror of abortion. Abortion has destroyed a generation of people. Abortion has become the easy fix for a complex life event. Abortion has cheapened life in our culture. Because of its promotion, abortion has also become big business. May God help us to return to view life as valuable and as His great gift.

Gant is pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Gore Springs.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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KTJU TC.

ZVEG DTLXC: CQDMOD

Clue: Q = W  
Have fun with cryptography  
and exercise your Bible  
knowledge. A King James  
Version Bible verse has been  
encoded by letter substitution.  
The same letter is substituted  
throughout the puzzle. Solve  
by trial and error. Answer to  
last week's puzzle:  
Hosea 14:2

# Homosexual activist: campaign to continue

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — One of the nation's most prominent homosexual activists says the push for same-sex marriage must continue despite setbacks on Election Day and that homosexuals "must never lose sight" of their goal.

"The lessons of history are clear — equality cannot wait for a convenient time, society only moves toward equality when challenged to do so," Cheryl Jacques, former head of the Human Rights Campaign, wrote in a column posted on her website. "Change does not come through cautious inaction, but through principled insistence."

The Human Rights Campaign — the nation's largest homosexual activist group — waged an unprecedented campaign to see President Bush defeated. Bush won on Election Day, and all 11 states that voted on constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage passed them.

Mississippi voters were tops in the country, giving their constitutional amendment a best-in-the-nation victory margin of 86%-14%. Election observers have said the constitutional amendments were major factors in turning out a high number of pro-family voters in the states in which the amendments were on the ballot. Mississippi Secretary of State Eric Clark declared the total of more than 1.1 million Mississippi voters who went to the polls on November 2 to be a record.

The constitutional amendments were a significant defeat for homosexual activists, who months earlier had seen Massachusetts become the first state to legalize same-sex marriage solely because of a ruling by the state's high court.

Marriage:  
One Man,  
One Woman

The Election Day results presumably contributed to the resignation of Jacques from the Human Rights Campaign in late November. Her Internet column — as well as a handful of media interviews — broke her silence.

"The road to equality will be rocky, with days where much progress will be realized, mixed with days of setback and new obstacles," Jacques wrote in her column, dated Jan. 6. "We have planted the flag of full equality solidly in the ground, and we must never lose sight of it. We must work tirelessly each and every day to get closer to it, until we can gather around that flag as a community, as full and equal citizens of the United States of America."

Jacques acknowledged that the homosexual community is divided on the political and legal strategy surrounding same-sex marriage, but she compared the push for gay marriage to the push for civil rights and women's suffrage.

"The struggle for gay civil rights is at a crossroads in America, and even within the GLBT [gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender] community there are differences of opinion about how the struggle for equality should proceed," she wrote. "While many committed leaders are continuing the long march toward full equality, including equal marriage rights, others are arguing that we have gone too far, too fast, and that we should wait for society to catch up."

Jacques told the Metro West Daily News in Framingham, Mass., that it is a "minority of voices" within the homosexual community who want to slow the same-sex marriage move-

ment. It is unclear where Human Rights Campaign officials stand on the fast-paced push for same-sex marriage. The topic still has a prominent place on the HRC website; in addition, an HRC official told The Boston Globe that the push for same-sex marriage is "extremely important."

Even if the homosexual community is somewhat divided, several victories could lie ahead in 2005. The Washington state Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a same-sex marriage case in March. An appeals court in New Jersey and a judge in California heard arguments in separate same-sex marriage cases in December. Pro-family leaders aren't optimistic about any of the cases.

In fact, the gay marriage movement shows no sign of slowing down. Including the three aforementioned states, nine states are in court defending their laws against those seeking to legalize same-sex marriage.

## Singer Chapman, wife Mary Beth discover joy of adoption

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Award-winning Christian songwriter and recording artist Steven Curtis Chapman remembers his "aha moment," when the Gospel of Jesus Christ became amazingly clear to him.

Despite all his success in the music industry, for him, the "aha moment" came when he and his wife, Mary Beth, adopted their daughter Shaohannah from China.

"Until we adopted Shaohannah, I didn't fully understand the depth of what Jesus has done for us," Chapman said. "[Without Christ] I was hopeless, without a future, without a name ... then Jesus came into my life, gave me hope and a future. He gave me a new name."

Calling adoption the "visible Gospel," a term he borrows from Christian author John Piper, Chapman said, "Adoption is the perfect picture of what God has done for each of us in making us His children through Christ."

Pausing to let it all sink in, Chapman added, "God's done amazing things in our family. Without a doubt, adoption has been the most profound experience in God."

The Chapmans experienced the miracle of adoption through the prompting of their oldest daughter, Emily. Already with three children — Emily, Caleb and Will — the Chapmans adopted Shaohannah, who is now 5, in March 2000. Three years later, they brought home Stevey Joy Ru, now 2, and in the summer of 2004, they adopted

Maria Sue, age 1. All three adopted daughters came from China.

In addition, the Chapmans began Shaohannah's Hope, a nonprofit organization based in McLean, Va., that provides information and assistance to people who want to adopt but lack the financial resources.

"There are a lot of people who have room at their table but not room in their wallet for another family member," Chapman acknowledged. "Yet, there are roughly 34 million orphans around the world."

"If God can adopt us into His family and call us His own, it is our hope that others consider following His example by adopting a 'fatherless' child into their families."

To raise awareness about adoption, the Chapmans co-authored their first children's picture book, *Shaoey & Dot: Bug Meets Bundle*. This first installment in a series about adoption retells Shaohannah's adoption adventure in a whimsical way. A portion of the proceeds of the book, distributed through Thomas Nelson, will go to support Shaohannah's Hope.

Chapman concedes that the adoptions also have inspired his newest project, *All Things New*, his 14th record with Sparrow Records. The CD debuted in September.

The Chapmans' efforts have been noticed. They were honored in the Angels in Adoption Program, which is sponsored by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization is dedicated to raising awareness about the tens of thousands of foster children in the U.S. and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent, safe and loving homes.

Angels in Adoption award winners are selected by members of the U.S. Congress to represent their states at a Washington-based gala given in their honor.

CCAI is also a founding partner of National Adoption Day, a collective national effort to raise awareness about children in foster care who are waiting to find permanent families. Now in its fifth year, National Adoption Day has celebrated adoption and has made the dreams of thousands of children come true by finalizing their adoptions.

This year's National Adoption Day was held on Nov. 20, when courts, judges, attorneys, child welfare agencies and advocates nationwide finalized the adoptions of thousands of children from foster care and celebrate and honor all families who adopt.



**GROWING FAMILY** — The children of singer Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife Mary Beth pose for a group photo. Pictured are (back row, from left) Will, age 12; Emily, age 18; and Caleb, age 13. They are holding (left to right) Stevey Joy Ru, age 2; Shaohannah, age five; and Maria Sue, age one.